

4. **Stop signs:** The rules pertaining to stop signs are the same as those pertaining to red flashing light signals. A driver should come to a complete stop before the solid white line or crosswalk. If there is neither a solid white line or crosswalk, the driver should come to a complete stop, parallel to the stop sign, if possible, before entering the intersection at a place that allows the driver to determine if any other vehicles are approaching the intersection from another direction. As always, watch for pedestrians.
5. **Yield Signs:** A yield sign indicates that a driver must slow down when approaching an intersection and be prepared to come to a complete stop if a vehicle or pedestrian with the right-of-way is approaching from another direction. A vehicle approaching from another direction with the right-of-way should not have to brake to avoid a collision with a vehicle entering from a road with a yield sign.
6. **Intersections with No Signal, Sign or Signal not functioning:** Vehicles approaching an intersection that has no signal or a malfunctioning signal, shall stop before entering the intersection. After stopping, vehicles may proceed with caution through the intersection and shall yield right of way to traffic within the intersection.
7. **Entering Streets or Roadways from an Alley, Building or Driveway:** A driver must yield the right of way to other vehicles and is required to stop before entering a street or roadway from an alley or driveway.

CHAPTER C

BASIC ELEMENTS OF SAFE VEHICLE OPERATION: The following sections provide essential information about safe and legal vehicle operation and techniques for avoiding situations in which an accident is more likely to occur.

The most important rule for safe vehicle operation is to pay attention to the road! Even experienced drivers too often allow themselves to be distracted while driving. Always anticipate potential problems. A good defensive driver looks out for the actions of other drivers.

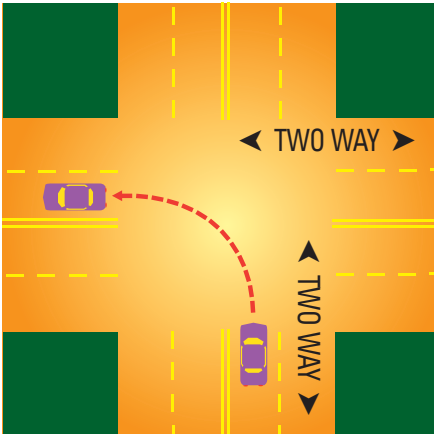
1. **Driving Lanes and Lane Markings:** Driving lanes and lane markings help separate traffic going in opposite directions and allow for multiple lanes of traffic going in the same direction on busier roads. Staying within the driving lane you are travelling except to turn or pass is the first rule of traffic safety.

- a. **Yellow Lane Markings:** Yellow lane markings are found on or near the center of a road and are used to divide two-way traffic. If there is a double yellow line or a solid yellow line on your side of the road, never drive to the left of the solid yellow line except to turn. If there is only one broken yellow line or a solid yellow line on the left-hand side of a broken yellow line, you may use the left-hand side of the road to pass, but only, if you follow the rules for passing outlined in Section 4 below.
- b. **White Lane Markings:** White lane markings are used to separate multiple lanes of traffic going in the same direction. You should not cross a solid white line. Most multiple lane roads have broken white lines to separate lanes. A broken white line authorizes a driver to change lanes when it is safe to do so. Follow these rules when changing lanes:
 - (i) First, make sure traffic directly ahead is clear;
 - (ii) Check your mirrors for vehicles behind you that have begun or are about to pass you;
 - (iii) Briefly turn your head in the direction you wish to proceed to, to ensure that no vehicle is in your vehicle's "blind spot" to see if there is sufficient room to move into the adjacent lane;
 - (iv) Use your directional signals to alert other drivers that you are about to change lanes;
 - (v) Smoothly move into new driving lane; and
 - (vi) Only change one lane at a time.

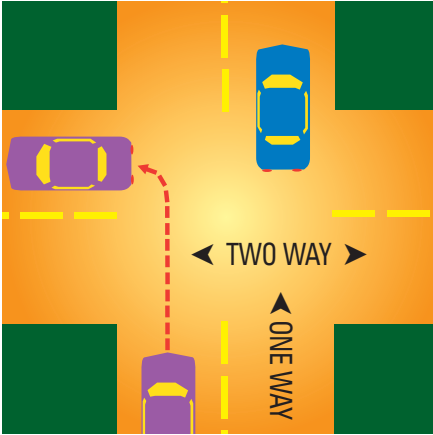
If you are changing lanes in preparation of a turn, do so at least 200 feet before the turn. Do not weave in and out of lanes! Your risk of an accident greatly increases. On the highway, slower vehicles should use the lane to the right. Leave the left-hand lane for faster moving vehicles that wish to pass.

- 2. **Rules for making Safe and Legal Turns:** Many accidents can be avoided by adhering to the following rules and guidelines in making proper turns. Always keep in mind that it is important to plan ahead to anticipate when you are going to make a turn. If you are going to be travelling on roads you are unfamiliar with, it is always useful to consult a map in advance to know when you will have to make turns to avoid "last minute" decisions.

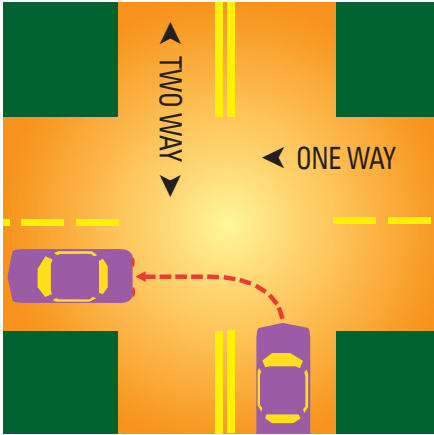
a. Turning from and onto the proper lane: If the road you will be turning from has more than one lane, the first rule for a safe and legal turn is to move into the lane nearest to the direction you will be turning well in advance of the turn. Follow the rules in Section 1 to safely move into the proper lane prior to making a turn. The following diagrams illustrate a proper turn.



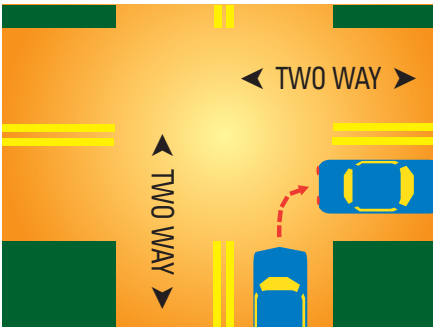
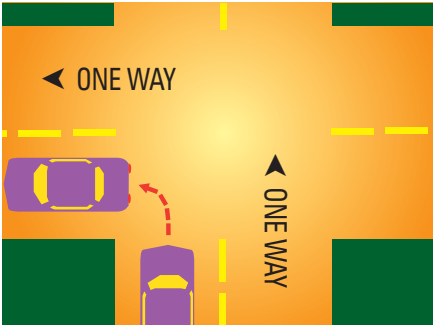
Left turn from two-way streets and highways into another two way-road.



Turning left from a one-way street into a two-way street.



Turning left from a two-way street into a one-way street.



Turning at a red light.

- b. **Signaling your intention to turn:** Give a proper turn signal at least 200 feet before turning or changing lanes. If the speed limit is 50 miles per hour or more, give a proper turn signal at least 300 feet before turning or changing lanes. The safest type of signal is using the lighted signals that are standard equipment on most vehicles. If, however, one or more of these signals are malfunctioning, you may use the hand signals (except on driving tests) that are illustrated below:



Right Turn



Left Turn



Slow or Stop

- c. **Turning at Intersections:** Prior to making a turn at an intersection, you must follow the rules concerning traffic control devices. Always watch for pedestrians! Never force a pedestrian to make a special effort to avoid your car when turning. If you come to stop at the intersection prior to turning, keep the vehicle's front wheels pointed straight and apply the brakes before proceeding.
- d. **Legal Right Turns when a Stop Light Signal is Red:** In order to facilitate greater traffic flow, Indiana, as most other states, allows a driver to turn right at an intersection in limited circumstances when a traffic light signal is red. A legal turn may only be made in the following circumstances:
- (i) The driver comes to a complete and full stop at the traffic light;
 - (ii) The driver makes sure there are no vehicles or pedestrians in the path of the turn;
 - (iii) The driver does not interfere with the right-of-way of any vehicle or pedestrian who is moving in the direction of the turn; and
 - (iv) The driver follows the other rules pertaining to turns, i.e. correct lanes, discussed in this section.

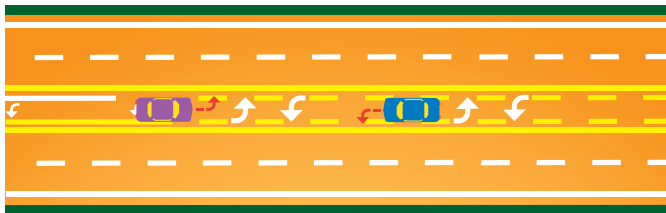
Special Exception for Left Turns: If the driver is on a one-way street and wishes to turn left onto another one-way street, a legal turn may be made only when the traffic signal is red and if the driver follows rules (i) through (iv) listed above. This is the only circumstance in which a driver may make a legal left turn against a red traffic signal.

- e. **U-Turns:** A U-turn is a potentially dangerous maneuver that should only be undertaken when absolutely necessary. Obey the following rules:
- (i) always yield the right-of-way to oncoming vehicles and to any pedestrians;
 - (ii) never make a U-turn on any curve in the road or when approaching or nearing the crest of a hill or grade;



- (iii) never make a U-turn on an interstate highway; simply proceed to the next exit and reenter the highway in the opposite direction; and
- (iv) never make a U-turn when this sign is posted:

- f. **Turning Left From Specially Designated Center Lane:** Many busy roads in which there are many places where a vehicle may make a left turn have a center lane designated solely for left-turning vehicles. Use these center lanes to decelerate and turn left if available. Always be aware that vehicles travelling in the opposite direction may be entering the center to turn left in front of your vehicle. Never use this type of center lane for passing or overtaking other vehicles. Designated center lanes for left turns can be identified by looking for these signs:



NOTE: Pavement arrows in center-lanes are not always installed.

- g. **Following turning vehicles:** When following a driver who has signaled his or her intention to make a turn or who has slowed down and may be looking to make a turn, drive defensively and always slow down and be prepared to stop.
3. **Rules for Passing/Utilizing Left-Hand Side of the Road:** This section discusses safe and legal passing when a driver must use lanes on the left-hand side of the road designated for traffic travelling in opposite direction.

Passing vehicles by using the left-hand side of the road is a potentially dangerous driving maneuver in which a serious accident can occur. Always consider whether it is really necessary to make such a pass.

a. Passing Prohibited: It is illegal and extremely dangerous to attempt to pass in the following situations:

- (i) A yellow solid line is marked on the driver's side of the center line of the road;
- (ii) A yellow pennant-shaped "No Passing Zone" sign is posted on the left-hand side of the road or a white, rectangular "Do Not Pass" sign is posted on the right-hand side of the road;
- (iii) When on or approaching a curve;
- (iv) When approaching the crest of a hill or grade;
- (v) Within 100 feet of an intersection or railroad crossing; or
- (vi) Within 100 feet of a bridge, viaduct or tunnel.

b. Requirements for Safe and Legal Passing:

- (i) Make absolutely sure the passing lane is clear of traffic. You are required to return to the right-side of the road no less than 100 feet before any approaching vehicle;
- (ii) Check behind and to the left to make sure another car is not attempting to pass your vehicle;
- (iii) Give appropriate turn signal;
- (iv) Move into the passing lane, then accelerate, and continue to move forward until the vehicle passed can be seen in the rearview mirror;
- (v) Before returning to the original driving lane, give the appropriate turn signal.

c. When Being passed: If your vehicle is being passed on the left-hand side of the road allow the vehicle to pass safely and do not increase your speed.

4. Pedestrian Safety: Crosswalks or the existence of a pedestrian signal indicates that pedestrians are nearby. Please follow these rules and guidelines when pedestrians are in the vicinity:

- (i) Always yield the right-of-way to pedestrians;
- (ii) Do not make a turn that causes a pedestrian to stop, slow down or make some other special effort to avoid a collision;

- (iii) If children are in the vicinity take special care because children do not fully appreciate the dangers of traffic;
- (iv) Be respectful of others who have difficulty in crossing streets such as elderly persons or persons with a visual disability.

5. Parking Rules:

a. **Parallel Parking:** Parallel parking is simple and easy when drivers follow the procedure listed below:

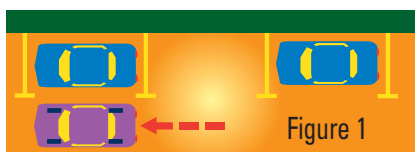


Figure 1

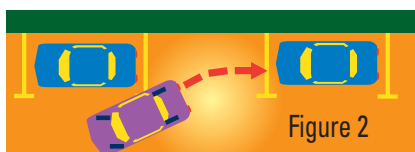


Figure 2

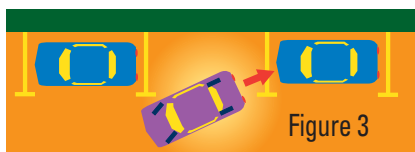


Figure 3

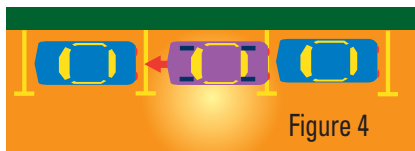


Figure 4

- (i) Signal your intention to park;
- (ii) Position the vehicle parallel with the vehicle parked in front of the empty space and maintain at least two (2) feet from this vehicle. (Figure 1)
- (iii) Align the rear bumpers of both vehicles. (Figure 1)
- (iv) Back up slowly until the front of the vehicle is even with the front door of the car beside you. Turn the wheel sharply to the right and back up slowly until the vehicle is at a 45-degree angle, straighten wheels and back up. When the front of your vehicle passes the rear of the car beside you, turn your wheel to the left sharply, then gradually while backing in. (Figure 2 & 3)
- (v) Straighten the wheels and pull forward. (Figure 4)
- (vi) When parked facing downhill, turn the wheels toward the curb. When parked facing uphill, turn the wheels away from the curb. When there is no curb, turn the wheels away from the street.
- (vii) Use your turn signal when entering traffic from a parking space.

b. Illegal Parking Areas: You may not park in the following areas:

- (i) Highways (unless indicated otherwise);
- (ii) Intersections or pedestrian crosswalks;
- (iii) Upon sidewalks;
- (iv) In front of any driveway;
- (v) Within 15 feet of a fire hydrant or in fire lanes;
- (vi) Underpasses;
- (vii) Bridges;
- (viii) Adjacent to yellow curbs;
- (ix) Beside another parked vehicle.

6. Maximum Speed Limits and Driving at Safe Speeds: Indiana law requires that drivers operate a vehicle at the posted speed limit. As discussed below, there are a number of road conditions that could cause a driver to be more cautious and drive at slower speeds.

a. Maximum Speed Limits:

| RURAL INTERSTATE HIGHWAY: | |
|--|----------------------|
| Passenger Vehicles | .65 mph or as posted |
| Trucks 26,000+ Pounds | .60 mph or as posted |
| School Buses | .55 mph or as posted |
| Urban Interstate Highway | .55 mph or as posted |
| United States Federal Route (e.g. US 31) | .55 mph or as posted |
| State Highways (e.g. State Road 37) | .55 mph or as posted |
| Most residential areas | .30 mph or as posted |
| County Roads | .50 mph or as posted |

Drivers must always be on the lookout for LOWER posted speed limits on highways. County and local roads may have different posted speed limits.

b. Maximum Speed Limits in Special Situations:

- (i) **School Zones:** If you are driving in the vicinity of a school at a time when children are present, be prepared to drive at a lower posted speed for the school zone. Local authorities may establish lower speed limits for school zones when children are present.
- (ii) **Highway Work Zones:** The maximum speed limit in a highway work zone is forty-five (45) miles per hour or a lower posted speed.

(iii) School Buses: When not operating on an interstate, federal or a state highway the maximum speed limit for a school bus is forty (40) miles per hour unless the posted speed limit is lower.

c. Conditions that Should Cause Drivers to Consider Slower Speeds:

Excessive speed, even when conditions are ideal, is dangerous and increases the possibility of an accident. Driving at or in excess of the posted speed limit under the following roadway conditions is even more dangerous:

- ◆ Bad weather and poor visibility;
- ◆ Slick or icy roads;
- ◆ Worn Tires;
- ◆ Unsafe vehicle condition;
- ◆ Impaired physical condition;
- ◆ Overdriving headlights;
- ◆ Hazardous conditions on road surface.

d. Speed and the Ability to Stop a Vehicle: The following chart provides an indication of just how fast a vehicle travels in one second at 35, 55 and 65 miles per hour:

| Speed | 35mph | 55mph | 65mph |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Feet traveled in 1 second | 51.3 | 80.7 | 95.3 |
| Lanes of traffic crossed in 1 second | 2.6 | 4.0 | 4.7 |
| Seconds to travel a football field | 5.8 | 3.7 | 3.1 |

e. The Two Second Rule: A good rule for drivers to follow is to stay at least two (2) seconds behind the vehicle ahead. When following a vehicle, watch for the vehicle ahead to pass a fixed object and estimate how much time elapses before your vehicle passes the object. Remember: A vehicle in front of you may stop for any number of reasons at any time; a defensive driver is prepared to respond to the unanticipated actions of other drivers.

7. Safety Belt and Child Safety Restraints: Safety belts and child safety restraints (i.e. car seats) save thousands of lives each year. Indiana law requires that drivers and all front-seat passengers use seat belts at all times when a vehicle is operated.

IMPORTANT: Even if the vehicle you are operating has one or more air bags, use your safety belt. The air bag is designed to work in tandem with the safety belt to slow the car's occupant down in the event of a collision. Failure to use a safety belt could result in injury to the occupant from the air bag.

a. Safety Belts:

- (i) When Required: All front seat occupants of passenger motor vehicles manufactured in 1964 or thereafter are required by law to use safety belts. Operators of buses are also required to use a safety belt. A safety belt or a child restraint system must secure children between four (4) years of age and twelve (12) years of age.
- (ii) Exceptions:
 - (A) Persons who, for medical reasons (and must carry the medical statement from a doctor), should not wear a safety belt;
 - (B) Certain commercial, postal and newspaper carriers who have to make frequent stops to deliver goods and services;
 - (C) BMV Driver Examiners while conducting a drive test.

b. Child Restraint Systems: A person operating a motor vehicle in which there is a child passenger less than four (4) years of age is required by law to properly secure the child in a child restraint system (i.e. child car seat) unless it is reasonably determined that the child cannot fit in a child restraint system (and then the child is required by law to be properly restrained by a safety belt).

CHAPTER D

SAFE VEHICLE OPERATION IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS: This chapter summarizes the laws for special driving situations and guidelines for safe driving under these situations.

1. **Night Driving:** Operating a vehicle at night presents a number of potential problems. These problems can be made worse if the driver is not used to operating a vehicle at night or when other adverse conditions exist.
 - a. **Visibility:** Pedestrians, road markings, and other vehicles are more difficult to identify and recognize at night than in the daytime. Under nighttime driving conditions, the driver should reduce normal speed, especially on unfamiliar roads. The glare of oncoming headlights may also reduce